



Sunrise Caribbean, p.12



The Seagull at GAC, p.12

Budget and Scope Stop Bureau Of Engraving Construction Start

by Deanna Dawson

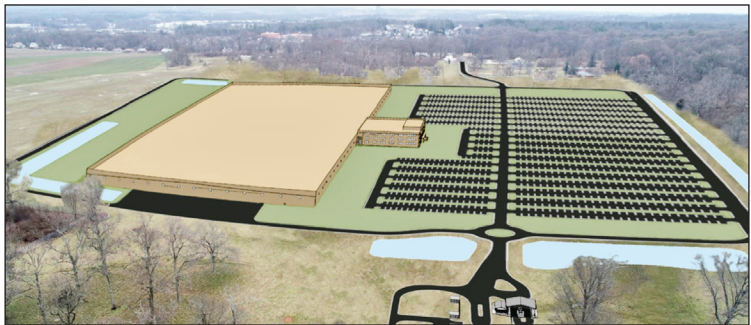


PHOTO FROM PROJECT DIGITAL EIS

Schematic of Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility planned to be built at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

According to the January 2025 BEP (Bureau of Engraving and Printing) Replacement Facility Quarterly Newsletter, a solicitation for the construction of the BEP Currency Production Facility at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center has been cancelled. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which has been partnering with BEP in the design and construction of the facility, cited “budgetary constraints and a reduction in the project’s required scope” as the reason for putting construction on hold. No further information from BEP or USACE could be obtained before press time.

The facility was to be built on a 104-acre site on Poultry Road, which runs northward from Powder Mill Road to Odell Road, about 0.5 miles west of the intersection of Powder Mill Road and Research Road. The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the transfer of the land from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for this purpose. In October 2021 Treasury announced its decision to move forward with the project after reviewing the Final Environmental Impact Statement and concluding that the project

See **BEP**, page 11

Council Considers Pool Deck Repairs and Standing Rules

by Erik Hanson

The Greenbelt City Council met Wednesday January 22, for a worksession to discuss indoor pool deck repairs at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC) and to review its standing rules.

Pool Deck Repairs

City Manager Josué Salmérón, Director of Recreation Greg Varda and Director of Public Works Brian Kim presented the scope and impacts of the planned repairs to the indoor pool deck.

An ongoing issue of water seeping into the concrete has made it necessary to replace the pool deck. The work is projected to start on April 7 and be completed by September 29.

While the fitness wing will be open, the indoor pool and hot tub area will not be available during the construction. The outdoor pool will open in early



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Greenbelt’s indoor pool will have to close for several months during renovations to the deck.

May, pending approval from the Health Department. The hours for the outdoor pool will be Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.,

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Staying open past dusk may require

See **COUNCIL**, page 9

Greenbelt Elementary School Holds Briefing on February 27

by Brooke Kenny



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Greenbelt Elementary School

Families of Greenbelt Elementary will get a chance to learn more about the school’s academic shortcomings in a meeting planned for 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 27 at the school.

According to an email sent to the school community Sunday by Principal Joel Nelson, Greenbelt Elementary has recently been designated as an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) School by the Maryland State Department of Education.

“This designation means that our school will receive additional support to develop and imple-

ment a plan to address areas of improvement,” Nelson wrote in the email.

According to the Maryland Department of Education website, schools are designated as ATSI schools “when one or more student groups perform as low as the lowest performing 5 percent of Title I schools in the state.” A school does not have to be a Title I school to receive an ATSI label.

Student groups considered are racial and ethnic groups, English-language learners, students with

See **SCHOOL**, page 11

As residents at Parkway Gardens and Crescent Pointe remain without heated apartments, there are plans to repair two of the three boilers serving those units and a third will need to be replaced, the News Review learned. Greenbelt’s Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby told the News Review on Tuesday, January 28 that the city hopes the two boilers slated for repair will be working by the end of February. However, removing a broken boiler and installing a new one will be a longer process, she suggests. Twenty-four units impacted by that boiler, all of which are in Parkway Gar-



PHOTO BY MADELINE JEPSEN

The black electric radiator provided by Crescent Pointe management is seen next to the nonfunctional radiator that usually heats a 35-square-foot bathroom. This electric radiator has been the only source of heat for the roughly 750-square-foot apartment.

dens, might not see a better heat solution in the near future. The city will have a better idea of

the timeline once the management company, Dreyfuss, has submitted a proposal, said Hruby.

Timeline

Parkway Gardens and Crescent Pointe have been without permanent central heat since October 2024. At the end of October the management company contacted residents to tell them they’d be providing window HVAC units. On November 14, 2024, the city was made aware of the problems with the boilers following a resident complaint. “On

See **HEAT**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, February 3
7:30 p.m., Charter Review Taskforce Interviews, Municipal Building
Wednesday, February 5
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: ARPA Update/ Wrap-up

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

State Senator Alonzo Washington holds a meet and greet at the New Deal Café. Washington is running for the position of county executive. See story on page 6.

A Review

How the Arts Can Rehabilitate

by Denise Nadasen

Sing Sing, a 2023 film directed by Greg Kwedar and written by Clint Bentley and Kwedar, shown recently at the Greenbelt Cinema, is based on a true story. It is a heartwarming film about hardened criminals in the famous Sing Sing prison in New York – 30 miles north of Manhattan along the Hudson River – who find redemption in theater. The prison is named after Sintsink, the Native American tribe from whom New York “purchased” the land. It is a maximum-security prison that holds 1,700 prisoners.

In the film, inmates use a creative arts program – drama – to become vulnerable with each other and increase their self-awareness. I think of it as Creative Kids Camp for Prisoners, only this program gives these prisoners the ability to become rehabilitated. The cast is incredible. I won’t give away too much



Sing Sing movie poster

but watch the credits at the end to learn about those featured in the film. Coleman Domingo is phenomenal. The emotional depth and vulnerability shared by these men behind bars gives me hope.



♥♥♥♥♥♥

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See p. 9 to get yours!



PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

Happy Groundhog Day! This groundhog showed up in Greenbelt East in August 2019.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Brutalist

Escaping post-war Europe, visionary architect László Toth (Adrien Brody) arrives in America to rebuild his life, his work and his marriage to his wife Erzsébet (Felicity Jones) after they had been forced apart during wartime by shifting borders and regimes. On his own in a strange new country, László settles in Pennsylvania, where the wealthy and prominent industrialist Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce) recognizes his talent for building. But power and legacy come at a heavy cost. The film won three awards at the Golden Globes and has received 10 nominations for this year’s Oscars. Said critic Ty Burr of The Washington Post, “For [director] Corbet, a film – this film – is its own reward. It offers more than enough rewards for us as well.”

Nickel Boys

Elwood Curtis’ (Ethan Herisse) college dream shatters alongside a two-lane Florida highway. Bearing the brunt of an innocent misstep, he’s sentenced to the netherworld of Nickel Academy, a brutal reformatory sunk deep in the Jim Crow South. He encounters another ward, the seen-it-all Turner (Brandon Wilson). The two Black teens strike up an alliance: Turner dispensing fundamental tips for survival, Elwood clinging to his optimistic worldview. Backdropped by the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement, Elwood and Turner’s existence appears worlds away from Rev. Martin Luther King’s burnished oratory. Despite Nickel’s brutality, Elwood strives to hold onto his humanity, awakening a new vision for Turner.

The Thinking Game

The film takes the viewer on a fascinating journey into the heart of DeepMind, one of the world’s leading AI labs, as it strives to unravel the mysteries of artificial general intelligence (AGI). Inside DeepMind’s London headquarters, founder Demis Hassabis and his team are relentlessly pursuing the creation of AI that matches or surpasses human abilities on a wide range of tasks. Filmed over five years, the documentary puts viewers in the room for the pivotal moments of this quest, including the groundbreaking achievement of AlphaFold, a program that solved a 50-year grand challenge in biology. The Thinking Game captures the exhilaration of historic breakthroughs like AlphaFold, the crushing weight of disappointment during setbacks and the unwavering pursuit of knowledge that defines Demis’ commitment to scientific innovation.

The Color Purple

A story of love and resilience based on the novel and the Broadway musical, The Color Purple is a decades-spanning tale of one woman’s journey to independence. Celie (Whoopi Goldberg) faces many hardships in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood. “A powerful and electric film, this is an amazing theatrical experience. Director Blitz Bazawule delivers a lavish old-school Hollywood musical, yet also the most modern and honest adaptation of The Color Purple to date,” said critic Grace Rudoph of Beyond the Trailer. “A must see.”

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
January 31st - February 6th

The Brutalist (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (215 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 2:45 PM, 7:00 PM
Sat. 2:00 PM, 6:15 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM (OC)
Wed. 6:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 6:00 PM
Mon. 1:15 PM, 5:30 PM
Tues. 6:00 PM
Thurs. 6:00 PM

Nickel Boys (PG-13) (CC)
(DVS) (2024) (140 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 4:30 PM (OC), 7:30 PM
Tues. 6:15 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 4:15 PM, 7:15 PM
Sat. 2:20 PM, 6:40 PM
Sun. 12:00 PM, 3:00 PM
Wed. 6:15 PM

The Thinking Game (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (84 mins)
Use code IRLClub for \$5 tickets! (email required)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 7:00 PM

The Color Purple (PG-13)
(1985) (154 mins)
Free Cinema Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt
News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

Museum Open House: Valentines and More



PHOTO BY MEGAN YOUNG

Love in the 1940s

Join the Museum for Be Our Valentine, a free Museum open house on Sunday, February 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 10-A Crescent Road. Visit for a quick tour and a lighthearted look at love in the 1940s and 1950s. See vintage valentines, decorations, funny ads, magazines and more. This is a free event, pre-registration and tickets are not required. Visitors of all ages and abilities are welcome.

The Museum has always been committed to creating an inclusive environment, so this year they are hosting the youth-led nonprofit We Are Artistic as part of the open house. The group will be educating visitors about Spread the Word to End the Word, an effort to stop use of the harmful “R” word, historically used to describe people with intellectual disabilities.

Small Acts of Kindness

The Greenbelt Community Church is offering a panel discussion on Monday, February 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The Small Acts of Kindness Panel Discussion is an interfaith panel with Rabbi Saul Oresky, Dr. Sema Sidhu, YaYa and Reverend Clara Young.

Arts Advisory Board Meeting

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday February 4, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include looking at the year ahead. Greenbelt citizens who may be interested in joining the board are encouraged to attend. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, write to alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov.



Makerspace Repair Café

The Makerspace Repair Café will be open on Saturday, February 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others’ items (volunteers needed as well). Bring bikes, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library hours are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go to [tools.greenbeltmakers.org](https://greenbeltmakers.org) for more information.



Poetry in the Garden

The Poetry Club will meet on Sunday, February 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the clubhouse at Schrom Hills Park in Greenbelt East. The topic for this free session will be African American poetry. The public is invited to read their chosen poems or enjoy listening and discussing this topic. Refreshments will be served.

For more details, call Effie at 443-415-1053.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes the Prince George’s County schools. Annual dues are up for renewal.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Astronomical Society To Meet January 30

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 30 in Room 114 of the Community Center. Joseph Grikis, of ASG and the Cumberland Astronomy Club, will give a presentation entitled The Most Famous Astronomer You Never Knew. The mystery scientist was a highly talented and historically underappreciated stargazer, physicist and mathematician. This will be a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. The link will be posted before the event at greenbeltastro.org/events.

The meeting is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Toastmasters Open House, February 1

Looking for a fun and supportive way to improve communication and leadership skills? Come to the Toastmasters Open House on Saturday, February 1 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center to network with local members and learn how to join a club near you. Visit bit.ly/4fnSAjJ for more information and to register.



New Deal Art Exhibit To Open February 2

The citywide art exhibit will open on Sunday, February 2 at the New Deal Café. A reception will be held at 1 p.m. Come join in the fun. For more information email blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com.

GREA Meeting February 4

The Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA) holds its next meeting on Tuesday, February 4 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. through Zoom. Agenda items include supporting CASA’s plans to support immigrants, reviewing DEI in Greenbelt and planning for 2025 efforts.

For a link to the meeting, go to the GREA website at greenbeltraciaequity.org/events.

Book Discussion Group at New Deal

The Bibliophiles will meet from 11 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of each month at the New Deal Café. The first meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 12. The agenda includes introductions and house-keeping, followed, time permitting, by discussion of their first nonfiction book: Celebrating the Third Place, Inspiring Stories About the Great Good Places at the Heart of our Communities by Ray Oldenburg. The book will be reserved at the Greenbelt Library’s e-book or use the Libby app from the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. The paperback can be ordered from Amazon. Email RSVPs to Van Caldwell at wvcaldwell@gmail.com with the subject line Bibliophiles.



Greenbelt Chess Club Meetings for February

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, February 11, 18 and 25 at the Greenbelt Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m) and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

At the Library

The Library’s regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Bibliobop Dance Party

Saturday, February 1, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Bust a move and shake the sillies out. Bring parents or caregivers and prepare to boogie and bop. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12615519.

Storytimes

Friday, January 31, ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12329223.

Wednesday, February 5, ages 3 to 5, 12:15 p.m. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12620651.

Thursday, February 6, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12620676.

Books at Bedtime


Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 pm., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPS Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12615250.

Ride and Read

Thursday, February 6, 11 a.m., ages 16+ (adult). Get some physical activity while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on one of the Library’s stationary bikes with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must sign a waiver before beginning to ride, and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12622491.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

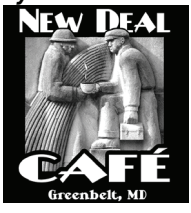
Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially string players and low brass. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.



This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt’s only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



Greenbelt, MD

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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-10pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 1/30	FRI 1/31	SAT 2/01	SUN 2/02	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Reggie Right Eye & The Missing Pieces 7-9pm Blues, roots rock, rockabilly & more!	UKULELE LADIES, 3 - 5p Mama Moon & the Rumpshakers 8-11pm Blues fusion featuring a lead vocalist with an electric presence	NDC JAZZ JAM, 2 - 5p Just Stones 8-11pm A musical tribute to the Rolling Stones	FONDCA ART RECEPTION, 1 - 3pm Deb B and Friends 6 - 8pm Expect anything, from roots to blues to jazz to folk. Anything with heart & soul	
MON 2/03	TUES 2/04	WED 2/05	TH 2/06	New Deal Cafe
MONDAY MAUVENESS KARAOKE 6 - 9pm Hosted by Mike Bennett	S.A.W. Open Mic 6-9:30pm Sign-ups at 6p Featured act (Rupert Wales) plays 8 - 8:30p	The Campfire Sessions 7-9pm Hosted by the infamous Joseph P. Swelterpants	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf’s Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm A big, bodacious boogie blues jam	PLEASE TIP GENEROUSLY. IT’S THE ONLY PAY BANDS RECEIVE, AND WE WANT THEM TO COME BACK! [MINIMUM: \$10]

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](https://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.



Greenbelt Access Television

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org
February Programming: Black History Month

Black American History Month 2025 Events Promo

Jennifer Dudley and Joe Parks, of the Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee, cover all the amazing programs taking place this February for Black American History Month!

City Wide Art Exhibition

An art exhibition, curated by Shaymar Higgs, Executive Director of The Space, will be on display at the New Deal Cafe. On Sunday, February 2nd, the New Deal Cafe will be launching the exhibition and holding a reception. Stay tuned for our coverage of the event!

Utopia Film Festival 2024 Selections

All month on our channel, we will be running a wonderful selection of films from the 2024 Utopia Film Festival that shed light on and celebrate the Black American experience, including: Mon Afrique, Get on the Bus!, Black Hair Love, Just Another Bombing?: This is Donal and Iona’s Story, Negro League Baseball Comes to Greenbelt, and Looking Inward: Black History & the Arts.

In Memoriam

A Tribute to Two Expert Craftsmen of Old Greenbelt

by Rick Ransom

Two former Greenbelters died recently whose lives impacted many beyond the group of those of us who grew up with them in the 1950s and 1960s: Joe Mack Schubert and Billy Steele.

Joe Mack Schubert

Joe Mack died in December 2024 at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, near the home of his sister Sue and her husband Kirk McCauley. He leaves behind his companion Rosa Wacke and many friends. His daughter Christina Hill and his nephew Roy McCauley predeceased him.

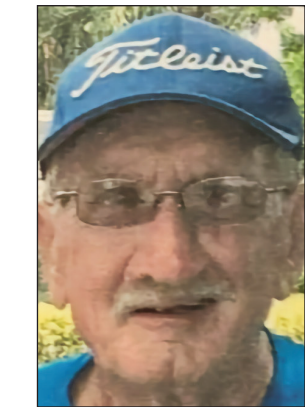
Joe Mack was a tremendously popular guy throughout his youth and adulthood. He met you as a friend. He was seldom without his wide smile and quick sense of humor. He was always interested in classic cars and owned custom autos himself. He was an avid swimmer, and many of us would sit on the hill by the Greenbelt Aquatic Center and watch him do trick dives and comic twists. (Yes, the pool had diving boards back then!)

Joe served in the Marines. Not long after his tour ended, Joe's motorcycle skidded on some road gravel and threw him into a fence post. He was 25 at the time. He told me once, "Ricky, I could feel the life draining from my legs." He was a paraplegic for the remainder of his life. He recovered after months of hospitalization and more months of learning how to live with his new status. He would scurry around town in his wheelchair, flying down the hill on Gardenway, holding his dog's leash and proclaiming with a grin, "I am walking the dog."

He learned to sew leather and became an accomplished outfitter of motorcycle seats and car interiors. His work was widely known and respected on both coasts of the U.S. as he lived in California and opened a shop there with three associates. It was impressive to relate that your in-



Joe Mack Schubert



Billy Steele

terior had been custom fitted by Joe Mack. He was interviewed by the editor of Hot Rod magazine in 1979. When asked about his injury, he stated, "It might be an inconvenience, but I sure

don't consider it a handicap. I do anything that I want to do, and I always have – thanks to the help of good friends."

Billy Steele

Billy Steele died in June of 2022 at his home in North Port, Fla., where he lived with his wife Marie. His son Scott lives nearby and Billy enjoyed fishing on his boat often. His other son, Michael Brett, lives in Maryland locally. While living in Greenbelt, Billy played softball with the Greenbelt Shell team from the 1970s that participated in several national championship tournaments.

Billy became a carpenter, although his more accurate title would have been home additions builder. He was an expert at his craft. Paul Remenick, a good friend who founded his own home improvement business, started out working for Billy. He noted that he had learned many of his work skills from him. Paul remarked, "He was the strongest

See MEMORIAM, page 11

Peggy Rooney

A memorial service/mass for Peggy A. Rooney, who died December 18, 2024, will take place March 10 at 11 a.m. at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
www.myholycross.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M.
Bible Study: 11:15 A.M.

Thursday Thrift Store
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate hope with us.

The Bible Says...

**Whatever you do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**
Colossians 3:17

MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

We are an Open and Affirming Church

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



We were saddened to learn of the death of former Greenbelt resident Joe Mack Schubert who died in December. His friends and Gardenway neighbors will remember wheelchair-bound Joe and his dog Katie sitting in front of their garage or out-and-about around town.

Congratulations to Dora McKenzie who won first prize for middle school photography in the county's NatureQuest contest.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Winning photo of a banana slug

Winning Nature Photo

by Eric McKenzie

Greenbelt resident Dora McKenzie, 12, won first prize for middle school photography in the county's recent NatureQuest contest. NatureQuest is an annual competition run by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission which encourages kids to "explore the beauty in your backyard, a local park or other outdoor environment and tell your nature story by drawing, painting, photography or through poetry." Dora's win-

ning photograph was of a banana slug, taken while she and her family were visiting Muir Woods National Monument near San Francisco. She liked Muir Woods so much that she kidnapped her dad's phone and took 211 photos. Winners received cash awards, and their submissions were displayed at the Harmony Hall Regional Center in Fort Washington from January 15 to 29.

Eric McKenzie is the father of Dora McKenzie.

"Let truthfulness and courtesy be your adorning."
– Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://ccg1985+owner@groups.io)

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

February 2, 2025 at 2:00 pm
A Dream Deferred?

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

In the spirit of our February theme (Interdependence), the MLK holiday, and Black History Month – we'll share a service centered in what Dr. King identified as the three evils of society (racism, poverty, and war). Together we'll consider those three shadows (and the light of Dr. King's dream of beloved community) in the context of our modern world.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 3 - 7

Monday, February 3 at 7:30 pm, **CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE INTERVIEWS**

Monday, February 3 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Homework Updates, Subcommittee Reports, Public Comment*

Tuesday, February 4 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Status of Revised License Plate Reader General Order/PSAC Recommendations, Discussion with City Manager and Chief of Police of PSAC's Recommendations in March 6, 2024 Report Regarding Certain Departments' General Orders, Polar Vortex to Bring Frigid Temperatures*

Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - ARPA UPDATE/WRAP-UP**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING WORKSHOP

Friday, February 7, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Room 204 (GATe Studio)

Learn how to tell a cinematic story with your smartphone! All other equipment and software will be provided by GATe. Fridays, 5:30 - 8:30pm. Class meets once. Next date 11/22. Ages 16 and up. See page 26, Winter Activity Guide.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join us this February as we celebrate black history month with events brought to us by The Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee, Greenbelt Recreation, and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights.

Learn about the 11 events scheduled at www.greenbeltmd.gov/BHM or visit the City's calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

ARTWARD BOUND: ART SOCIALS FOR ADULTS

Spend time with your friends learning a new skill - or just creating together - at a workshop scheduled just for you. Available activities include drawing, painting, pottery, collage, stained glass, fused glass, music, dance and more.

Email agardner@greenbeltmd.gov for more information or to arrange a program for your group.

HYPERTENSION AWARENESS & MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 19, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Room 202, 15 Crescent Road

Take Control of Your Blood Pressure! Hypertension Awareness & Management Workshop Join Greenbelt Recreation and Luminis Health for an informative workshop where we'll educate you about high blood pressure, its health risks, and effective strategies for prevention and management.

Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542 2056, pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov, for more information. FREE. Open to All Ages. Activity # 177211-1.

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NOTICE

At its regular meeting of January 13, 2025, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until February 22, 2025, at the Municipal Building, as well as on the City's Web site at www.greenbeltmd.gov.

Copies may also be requested from the City Clerk. It will become effective on March 4, 2025, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. As also required by state law, this notice is given to provide a fair summary of the resolution. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2114.

Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §32 "Vacancies on Council" to Change the Procedure for Filling Vacancies on the Council by Following Procedures in Newly Enacted § 8-14 of Chapter 8 of the City Code

Purpose: To amend the City Charter to establish procedures for filling a vacancy on the City Council.

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY VISIT

Monday, February 10, 11 am - 4 pm

Join Greenbelt Recreation and Senior Globetrotting as we visit The National Museum of African American History and Culture. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. Enjoy lunch on your own at the museum or at a local restaurant.

You may register online or in person at Greenbelt Community Center. Activity #178202-1. Resident: \$5, Non-Resident: \$7

Events and programs are 60+ (Open to All Ages). Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240)- 542- 2056, pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov.

RFP: MASTER PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THREE HISTORIC GREENBELT CEMETERIES

Close date: February 14 at 3 pm

The City of Greenbelt ("Owner") requests proposals from qualified historic preservation and cultural planning professionals ("Consultant") for the preparation of a Preservation Master Plan for the preservation, maintenance and use of three historic cemeteries: Hamilton, Walker, and Turner located in the City of Greenbelt. The Master Preservation Plan will provide guidance for the restoration, preservation, heritage tourism and maintenance of the cemeteries.

Please provide an electronic and original hard copy to:

Terri Hruby, Director
Department of Planning and Community Development
15 Crescent Road, Ste. 200, Greenbelt, MD 20770
thruby@greenbeltmd.gov (301) 345-5417

All requests for clarifications or additional information related to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing (via email) by January 29, 2025 and directed to Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development, at thruby@greenbeltmd.gov. All answers will be provided in writing and posted on the City's website on or before January 31, 2025.

View the RFP at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/advanced-components/rfp-posts-list>.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

For 6 months your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt. Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity

Church on Good Luck Road. Quality compost will be returned to Greenbelt for use as a soil-improving additive in community gardens and public spaces. Composting will reduce food waste going to the landfill and lower greenhouse gas emissions coming from the landfill. Compost Crew, the City of Greenbelt, and Trinity Assembly of God worked together to obtain funding for this pilot program through a USDA grant.

Questions? Luisa Robles: lrobes@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2153.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS

THURSDAYS: FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 20, APRIL 17

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Lower Parking Lot: 1 - 3 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia Maddox at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: Registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

LINOLEUM BLOCK PRINTMAKING

Saturday, 2/1 & 2/8, 11 am - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Learn the basics of linoleum block printmaking with this two-meeting workshop. Students will learn the tools and techniques needed to hand print small linoleum block relief prints on their own. Over the first meeting, the instructor will introduce and demonstrate the image transfer process, carving the block, inking and printing of an image. Between meetings, students will work on their own image transfer and carving of the block. At the second meeting, students will be able to finish carving, test print, adjust their design and print an edition in black.

JOIN THE CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city? Do you want to have a say in how our local government operates? Now is your chance to make a difference!

The City of Greenbelt is forming a Charter Review Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to our city's charter. We are looking for dedicated residents who are eager to contribute their time and expertise to this important process.

Submit an application at the following link: <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/boards-committees/application-for-appointment-to-boards-and-committees>. Scheduling interviews for February 3 at 7:30 pm.

For more information or to apply, please contact City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltmd.gov or (301) 474-3870.

"IF I WERE MAYOR" ESSAY CONTEST

25TH ANNIVERSARY

This digital essay contest has inspired nearly 50,000 young minds to dream big & learn about local government. The theme for this year's contest is "building community for a new generation."

This contest is open to all Maryland 4th grade students enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year. Essays must be submitted digitally, not exceed 275 words, begin with "If I were mayor," and received no later than March 7, 2025.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3W3nVBG> to learn more.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION!

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. Public Works will pickup trees at locations listed below or online. Please insure all ornaments and lights are removed. Drop off your trees for recycling at specified areas up until **February 7, 2025**.

- GHI**
- Ridge Road, 73 Court (opposite playground)
 - Plateau Place and Ridge Road (corner on playground side)
 - Research Road and Hillside Road (corner)
 - Ridge Road, 44 Court (Area near playground)
 - Eastway & Crescent Road (corner)
 - Ridge Road, 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)
 - Crescent Road and Ridge Road (playground at junction)
 - Parkway (corner across from 58 Court Crescent Road)
 - Parkway (corner across from Community Church)
 - Southway, 7 Court (playground at Little League field)
 - Ridge Road, 11 Court and 13 Court (area between courts)
- BOXWOOD**
- Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane (playground)
- Lakewood**
- Greenhill Road & Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)
- CHARLESTOWNE VILLAGE AND CHARLESTOWNE NORTH**
- Property adjacent to Attic Park
- UNIVERSITY SQUARE**
- In front of swimming pool
- LAKESIDE NORTH**
- Near Swimming pool
- SPRINGHILL LAKE**
- Field past 9294 Edmonston
- GREENBRIAR**
- Between buildings 7708 & 7710
 - Between buildings 7728 & 7730
 - Between buildings 7826 & 7828
 - Between buildings 8003 & 8009

- GLEN OAKS**
- Between buildings 7903 & 7905
 - Between buildings 7509 & 7511
- HUNTING RIDGE**
- Between buildings 6936 & 6978
- WINDSOR GREEN**
- At court entrances, picked up by Windsor Green staff
- GREENBROOK VILLAGE AND ESTATES**
- Southeast corner of Ora Glen Dr & Matthew Dr
 - Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and Greenbrook Drive
 - In front of barricade - Mandan Road & Matthew St
- GREENWOOD VILLAGE**
- Opposite 8175 Mandan
 - Opposite 7646 Mandan
 - Opposite 7648 Mandan
- GREENSPRING AND GREENSPRING II**
- Southwest corner of Megan Lane & Craddock Rd
 - Park area between 7926 & 8006 Greenbury Dr
 - Corner of Spring Manor Drive & Springshire Way
 - Open area between 6519 & 6515 Springcrest Dr
- BELLE POINT**
- Corner of Vanity Fair Dr. & Prince James Way
 - Open area between 7800 & 7801 Vanity Fair Dr.
 - Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive
- GREENBELT VILLAGE**
- Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Dr
 - Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive
 - Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Dr
- GREENBELT STATION**
- Central Park field along Stream Bank Lane



GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greenbelt, MD - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
(301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:

City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or council@greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Trees, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today! Call (301) 474-8000.

RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Fiscal Year 2026 Recognition Group applications and policy guide are now available on the City website at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/recreation-parks/recognition-groups-applications>.

Applications are due by close of business Monday February 3, 2025.

Please call Cathryn Pracht at (240) 542-2196 with any questions.

County Exec Hopeful Washington Speaks to Greenbelters at New Deal

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Sunday, January 26, Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington held a Meet and Greet at the New Deal Café as he sought to garner support from Greenbelt voters in his bid for the county executive seat. He did so with promises of bold changes. Among those most likely to resonate with Greenbelters: replacing the county fire chief and not allowing firefighters to be taken away, a new superintendent for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), stopping the maglev, but building the FBI headquarters in Greenbelt.

During his introduction, Washington emphasized his Prince George's roots and that he grew up in need of government assistance. His single mother and her children relied on government support and lived in a homeless shelter. Washington spoke of the need to make sure the government is there to support those that need it, to provide high quality services and to be able to pick people up. We should support people in need with government services "and we should do it happily," said Washington.

"We have so much at stake. ... Do we have the status quo or do we try a new vision for our county?" asked Washington. He criticized the county's management as small-minded, with short-term vision. The county has been going in the wrong direction for a long time, he said.

His Priorities

Washington said he would dismantle the Department of Permits, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) on day one. People shouldn't have to wait a year to build a deck, he said, also claiming the department has plagued the New Deal Café's use and occupancy permit. "I'm going to dismantle DPIE. That's number one," he said.

Number two was public safety. Washington would transfer 10 to 15 percent of sworn police officers to community policing roles. He argued sworn officers are sitting behind desks doing jobs civilians could do. He'd like to see them back in the community doing the work they were trained for. "Of the 1,600 sworn police officers only 50 are community policing officers," said Washington. "That's terrible. That shows where our priorities are."



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Alonzo Washington speaks to a crowd that turned out to hear and meet him at the New Deal Café on January 26.

Education

Number three was education. "We need a new superintendent with a vision for Prince George's County. With a vision that's going to transform education," he told the crowd. He said the county needs real change rather than incremental ones. "Under my leadership there will be bold change, significant change, the stuff that you keep asking for every time I knock on your door. 'Where is that money going that we're sending to PGCPS?' I hear it all the time," said Washington. He pointed to the creation of the PGCPS Office of Integrity and Compliance (OIC) under his leadership, an office he described as an inspector general for the school system (see the October 10 issue). This was an effort that took 10 years to pass, claimed Washington, due to opposition from the school board. Now with an "adult in the room" to oversee funding there's greater transparency, but already a bill to repeal it. "They're afraid of what this person is going to find and the changes that they're going to make. Government must be transparent, everybody ... and it must be accountable, right?" argued Washington. (House Bill 0369, sponsored by the Prince George's County Delegation, seeks to make alterations to the OIC and is scheduled to be heard in the Ways and Means Committee on February 5.)

In response to a later question about new federal policies, Washington again criticized PGCPS administration, calling their response to the recent revocation of schools as sensitive areas neither strong enough nor proactive enough (read about PGCPS response on page 7). He

called for training on how to respond if Immigration, Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agents try to enter school grounds, including for principals and school resource officers.

Other Priorities

"We must build the FBI here in Greenbelt," said Washington. "We must protect our environment here in Greenbelt," he said, citing the need for stormwater management to prevent flooding. "Our county must work hand in hand with our elected leaders here in Greenbelt," he continued. "As County Executive I will make sure we have a new fire chief," Washington proclaimed, saying firefighters must not be taken away – hitting on a key concern for many residents.

Seniors are also a priority, he said, taking aim at a recent county council tax credit for seniors that he says people can't take advantage of and doesn't work. Washington suggested there should be a fund available to help seniors in their homes fix things like steps, mold and mildew.

He also had a decisive message on the maglev which has been unpopular in Greenbelt in particular, given its possible route through the forest preserve. "I will stop the maglev train. Period. Period," said Washington. "No matter what Wes Moore says and what my other competitors say ... they will not dig under what's rightfully ours here in Prince George's County."

Washington then took questions from the audience for over half an hour, on topics and concerns that ranged from immigration to development and transportation.

Development

On development he said his stance is, "It's OK to say no." It's particularly OK to say no to strip malls, food deserts, smoke shops and liquor stores, said Washington. He called for a skeptical and smart approach to development, to stop gas stations, storage units and strip malls, to make sure the county is building communities and protecting the environment. He stressed the need for planning and pushing for developments that are community focused, with infrastructure to support them. Washington

See WASHINGTON, page 7

At the Museum

Spread the Word to End The Word Event Sunday

by Leo Casalini

On Sunday, February 2 from 1 to 5 p.m., the Greenbelt Museum will host an event in partnership with the D.C.-based nonprofit group We Are Artistic in which participants will learn about the "R-word" (a slur against people with intellectual disabilities) and why they should not use it. Participants will be able to decorate a cut-out paper heart and place it on a paper tree which will then be donated to the Museum. A pledge will also be available for people to sign, promising not to use the word again.

Edie Young, the spearhead behind this event, has had a long career in activism and nonprofit work, from starting We Are Artistic at the age of 12 to heading the Jackson Reed Disability Student Alliance, now at her high school, at the age of 18. "I've always been into art," said Young, "and wanted to provide a space where I could help others," and so the nonprofit began. It was first a small Facebook group and gradually grew over the years into the organization it is today with more than a dozen volunteers and members in two other countries.

This will be the third time the nonprofit has hosted this event, and a drop in the bucket of other such events Young has done before. At her school, her alliance works to provide an inclusive environment for teens with intellectual disorders as well as those with physical disabilities. "I feel like it's important to have a safe space. Everybody, I think, deserves a safe space," said Young.



Having friends and family on the spectrum, as well as being autistic herself, Young has seen and experienced the negative effects the R-word can have on people. The event this upcoming weekend seeks to highlight that and to bring it into discussion to give others, who may not have had the chance or need to think on the word's negative effects before, a reason to stop their use of the R-word in the future.

Weekly Programs Held at The SPACE

Artrepreneurship meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5 to 7 p.m. Four-week program.

Sundays, Sewing Classes, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open to all skill levels.

Wednesdays, Beginners Music Classes in Ukulele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fridays (1st and 3rd of the month), Free Art for All Game Night, 5 to 7 p.m.

Saturdays, Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m. Space Family Band Jam Session, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For details call 240-244-6115.

SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

An Interfaith Discussion Panel



Rabbi Saul Oresky

Dr. Hema Sidhu

YaYa

Reverend Clara Young



SCAN ME

February 3 | 6-7:30 pm

Greenbelt Community Church

1 Hillside Road



Two Centering Prayer Groups

Hyattsville and College Park, MD

Calm your inner clamor!

Mondays at 7:00pm
St. Mark's Catholic Church
Hyattsville, MD

Wednesdays at 9:30am
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
College Park, MD

For details contact facilitator Donna Chacko at 301-277-2970 or serenityandhealthdc@gmail.com

To learn more about Centering Prayer, go to www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/



the seagull

by anton chekhov

a story in music



at GAC GREENBELT ARTS CENTER



8pm fri & sat: january 24, 25, 31 & february 1
2pm sun: january 26 (facemasks required)
pay-what-you-will! 8pm wed january 29
scan qr code for tickets or visit greenbeltartscenter.org

Greenbelt Co-op Board Drafts Five-Year Vision for Co-op

by Amber Hennessy

On Saturday morning, January 11, the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative’s (Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy) seven-member board of directors and General Manager Dan Gillotte met at the Granite Building for a half-day brainstorming session.

The session agenda took the participants on an imaginative journey through time – starting with a history of the original cooperative grocery in the Center in 1939, through the repurchase by the current Co-op in 1984 and ending five years into the future, 2030. The board’s goal is to ensure the Co-op continues to successfully serve its members and the city for many decades. Achieving this goal requires a vision for the Co-op’s future direction, and this was the primary exercise for the brainstorming meeting.

Three of the seven current board members have joined the board within the last three years. There is a steep learning curve for new directors. Founding Co-op member Joe Timer has served on the board since its formation in 1984. He presented a historical insight into the critical period of upheaval and change from the old structure to the new. As documented in the Greenbelt News Review on April 5, 1984, “The new Greenbelt Consumer Coop-



From left: Directors Leonard Wallace, Sarah Rusk, General Manager Dan Gillotte, Amber Hennessy, Amy Drew, Steven Bernheisel and Kim Kash. Not pictured: Joe Timer

erative (GCC) successfully bid for Greenbelt’s Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy. The seller, Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc. (GCS) will continue to manage the facilities until the new owners are ready to take control, in about one month. GCC plans to borrow \$400,000 from the National Consumer Cooperative Bank. Combined with what it has raised and a second smaller loan from the Co-op Bank’s subsidiary development corporation, GCC will purchase for approximately \$500,000 all the inventory, store equipment, store improvements and supplies – everything but the building.”

With sufficient member support secured from the community, GCC thus became the Co-op of today in the same footprint as the original store.

Next, participants discussed several articles regarding board governance responsibilities and duties, while platters of veggies, cheese and crackers prepared by the Deli team sustained them.

This led to the five-year vision exercise introduced by Gillotte. He instructed the board to use the “hot-pen” technique, quietly speed-writing everything they are seeing, hearing or reading about the Co-op in 2030. Everything from small details about the store to major changes underway – in this

vision everything is funded, and no new endeavor is too big to handle. Participants then shared the resulting visions, noting similarities between each contribution or details that were exciting to many even though the idea may be new to all.

An ambitious bullet list of items to achieve in the next five years was easily written out as a result of this work. The future direction of the Co-op is becoming clear to the board and Gillotte. Moving forward, the board committed to setting aside time on the agenda of monthly board meetings to discuss their vision.

Amber Hennessy is a member of the Co-op Board of Directors.

PGCPS Shifts from Assurances To Immigrant Family Resources

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Over the last week the Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) system has shifted its messaging away from assurances of safety for all students to the sharing of immigration resources and information about rights. On January 27, PGCPS shared a new webpage for immigration resources. Over 40 percent of PGCPS students are Latino/Hispanic.

Four days before the presidential inauguration, Superintendent Millard House II told the school community that, at that time, schools were secure locations under federal law and they did not anticipate Immigration, Customs and Enforcement (ICE) activity on school grounds.

Days later schools, as well as places of worship and healthcare, were stripped of their designation as protected areas through an Executive Order from President Donald Trump.

PGCPS’ new immigration resources webpage, accessible from a link on the PGCPS homepage (pgcps.org), includes resources for legal assistance, links to a family preparedness plan, to CASA and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) pages. Important assertions that remain are that, “Every child has the right to a free public school education, regardless of immigration status” and that “PGCPS does not ask about or disclose immigration status.” PGCPS is assessing the impact of the two directives that change the federal policy stating schools are “sensitive areas,” states the website. Furthermore, the site mentions training for school personnel. “PGCPS has issued guidance to school principals on responding to a request from an immigration or

law enforcement officer seeking to enforce immigration laws at a school or to access a student or student records,” asserts PGCPS.

City Notes

Public Safety and Community responded to concerns regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence in schools.

Economic Development and CARES’ Workforce Development Coordinator networked at the Greenbelt Business Alliance Business Awards Gala. Constituent Services, Sustainability Coordinator and the DEI Officer met to discuss Franklin Park’s lack of recycling bins and ways to increase city recycling programs.

Code Enforcement logged 27 complaints of no heat at Crescent Pointe, Crescent Square and Parkway Gardens apartments.

The Planning Director met with representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, National Planning Commission and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission about off-road site improvements associated with the relocation of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Animal Shelter staff prepared for a free spay/neuter program, funded by a Department of Agriculture grant.

Environmental/Sustainability provided a quarterly electronics recycling event. Public Works and Park Rangers continued salting icy spots during freezing weather.

Therapeutic Recreation took seniors to Goddard Visitor Center and the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program welcomed six student nurses to the community nursing program.

WASHINGTON continued from page 6

pointed to the proposed development of 1,000 new units near Beltway Plaza without increasing the capacity of Springhill Lake Elementary School. Greenbelt resident Diana McFadden called for new development to also be in proximity to Metro or rapid bus service and to be walkable or bikeable and to reduce dependence on cars. Washington concurred, saying they’ll continue to be smart.

Deficit

Asked about the almost \$3B state deficit, Washington blamed Covid, fees and purchases, less revenue and that the influx of pandemic-associated federal dollars has ended. The budget itself has ballooned in the last 12 years, said Washington. Yet, he stressed the need to continue wraparound support for children using Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) and community schools, not to cut funding for the most in need, which the governor plans to do, he claimed.

Washington also spoke in favor of investments in public transportation and electric buses and keeping WMATA accountable for the funding they already receive from local jurisdictions.

Youth

Washington responded to a grieving mother in the audience who recently lost her son, saying youths need accessible resources. “Our young people need hope,” said Washington. Mentors are important, as is free tuition to community college and teen centers. We need robust Parks and Recreation services, with activities

scheduled after 5 p.m., he said.

Condo Management

A resident of Chelsea Wood, which has been without heat for several months, asked what Washington would do to stop this happening. Washington said he is a condo owner himself and recognized “our management companies aren’t great,” can’t be easily reached and don’t provide answers. Washington said as county executive he’d open warming centers at night as well as during the day. (See separate article on page 8.)

Washington closed by calling for accessibility and communication between residents and county agencies, for community members to be able to reach county staff and leaders. He praised City Manager Josué Salmerón as an example of an accessible leader.

The special primary election is scheduled for March 4. Twelve candidates are running in a crowded race to replace Angela Alsobrooks who was recently elected to the U.S. Senate.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on February 6, 2025

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on January 9, 2025
- b) 2025 Contract for Maintenance of GHI Heat Pump Systems
- c) Membership Matter

GDC Closed Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on October 3, 2024
- b) 2025 Contract for Maintenance of GDC Boiler & Chiller Systems

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GDC Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- a) Statement of Closed Meeting Held on February 6, 2025
- b) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on January 9, 2025
- c) Committee Report
- d) GHI Village Task Force
- e) Pepco Vehicle Electrification Study
- f) Invitation to Meet with Greenbelt City Council
- g) Pipe Replacement Program Assistance
- h) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on February 20, 2025

Members and visitors who wish to attend the open meetings must register in advance via the following link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/join/ztZwtd-uqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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HEAT continued from page 1

November 21, management initiated the replacement of the boiler system with individually installed combined heating and HVAC window units, intending this to be a permanent solution,” explained Hruby. “However, on December 13, the city became aware of issues with the window units, and staff confirmed with the property manager that new efforts were ongoing to address the problems.” The city’s code enforcement conducted their annual inspection on December 18 and issued a notice of violation, requiring corrective actions completed by January 20. As we reported last week, they weren’t.

Hruby didn’t like to say that the apartments are without heat because they have alternative heat sources provided by the management, but in the News Review conversations with residents, one scoffed at that suggestion and several complained they have limited ability to utilize those alternatives, given problems with the wiring in the old buildings. “During the day it’s problematic with the load capacity,” acknowledged Hruby, saying the city is just finding out this information and will continue enforcement efforts. Those efforts include fines that began last week (see the January 23 issue). Hruby couldn’t say exactly when citations were issued because each citation has to be written by hand and they take days to issue, but she confirmed all 54 city citations had been issued and the city began levying fines last week. Evaluations will take place every 10 days going forward and the city will need to see timely progress being made.

Asked about the amount of the fines, particularly in the context of the amount of rent that is being collected from the residents, Hruby says an adopted fee structure sets that amount and courts also specify a maximum allowed, although they could go to court and ask for it to be doubled. Though the management company changed on January 1, the property owner is the one ultimately facing the fines and being held accountable. “We will keep a dialogue with them and hold their feet to the fire,” said Hruby.

Meanwhile, residents continue to feel the cold. Madeleine Jepsen lives in Crescent Pointe and says she’s received limited communication from the management companies. Residents received a call in the last week of October informing them they would get temporary heating units, then written communication that window units were beginning to be installed and another message that installation would be paused. The window unit installation never got as far as Jepsen’s unit because the whole building lost power when residents tried to run the ones that were in place at the same time, according to Jepsen. The management said they were working with Pepco to update the electrical infrastructure but residents haven’t received any updates on that, says Jepsen. Though she never got a window unit she said her neighbors reported that they didn’t work and brought in air that was colder than that in the apartment anyway.

Since the plan for window units was halted, what Jepsen and others have each been provided was a plug-in radiator. It does



PHOTO BY MADELEINE JEPSEN

Madeleine Jepsen's fuzzy floor-length sweatshirt helps her stay warm while working from home.

provide heat, though it doesn’t heat the whole apartment, reports Jepsen, and she has to turn it off if she wants to use her microwave. Her oven and refrigerator are on a different circuit, which is helpful, and Jepsen says cooking in her oven over recent weeks has helped her warm up a bit. She planned to bake cookies last week to offset the freezing temperatures but gave up when she couldn’t keep the butter melted.

Friends and even the management company have offered Jepsen a second heating unit, but she says it’s not possible to run two at once. “I would love a second radiator,” she says, “but I can’t run them both.” Jepsen bought herself what she describes as “a fake-Sherpa hoodie that goes to my ankles,” so she can stop wearing a blanket like a cape during the day, while she works from home. “Last week when the temperatures were below freezing, it was between 38 and 49 degrees inside my apartment with the electric radiator running,” Jepsen told the News Review. She has a digital thermometer to keep track of the indoor temperature.

Jepsen is most concerned for her neighbors who don’t have anywhere else to go and those who might have to worry about whether or not they have a job in a few months in light of changes for federal employees, on top of struggling with their apartment.

Four Chelsea Wood Buildings Still Remain without Heat

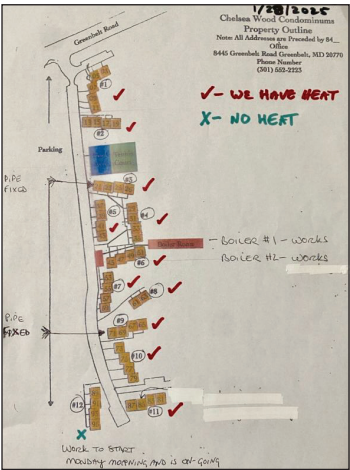
by Erica Johns

As of January 29, heat was restored in 43 of 47 buildings at the Chelsea Wood condominium complex just outside Greenbelt. Piping to the last four buildings was being repaired, which will bring heat to residents who have had none for the entire heating season. Half the complex’s buildings have had no heat since October when a first pipe failed, and the second half of the complex lost heat in December when a second pipe failed. Condo owners have been ineligible to use renters’ rights laws for aid while the condo association board and two management companies have struggled to address the failure of pipes and boilers from the 1960s.

Metropolis Condominium Management, who became the complex’s management company on January 1, notified the last unheated residents on Saturday, January 25 to expect repairs to their building to begin and be completed on Monday, January 27. However, a January 27 evening update reported that excavating the broken pipe took all day, so repairs would not begin until Tuesday, January 28. There was no heat by the morning of January 29.

Greenbelt Reacts

While Chelsea Wood is not within Greenbelt city limits, residents there have friends and connections in the city. Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón told the News Review on January 26 that the city used its purchasing authority to purchase pipes for Chelsea Wood, for which Chelsea Wood will reimburse the city. He also said that city staff notified the Chelsea Wood board and Metropolis of HVAC grant and loan programs from the Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development and the Maryland



MAP BY METROPOLIS CONDOMINIUM MANAGEMENT

Metropolis Condominium Management provided this heat status map to residents on January 28.

Department of Energy, which could help Chelsea Wood address its aging HVAC infrastructure.

Senator Reacts

Chelsea Wood resident Jessica Fomalont attended a Sunday, January 26 meet and greet session at the New Deal Café with Maryland Senator Alonzo Washington, a candidate for Prince George’s County Executive (see separate article on page 6.) She asked what he will do as county executive to protect condo owners from future similar situations.

After saying he is a condo

owner, he said he would make warming and cooling centers available at night as well as daytime, and for extended periods when a community needs them. He said he would hire State Delegate Nicole Williams (D – District 22) to transform how condo associations work with county government to achieve real solutions, including oversight to hold condo associations accountable to maintain HVAC systems. Williams is a real estate attorney and member of the Prince George’s County Commission on Common Ownership Communities.

Returning to Chelsea Wood specifics, he said that when individual Chelsea Wood residents contacted him, he contacted the complex’s board since it directs what occurs on the private property, saying they did not respond. He said he and District 22 state delegates (Anne Healey, Ashanti Martinez and Williams) are working with County Councilmember Eric Olson (District 3) to find resources and resolution for Chelsea Wood owners.

Readjusting to Normal

Heat was restored on January 21 for Pete Prince, whose family has owned their condo for 20

See **CHELSEA WOOD**, page 11



Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café
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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 20-26, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary
Greenbelt Police reported two domestic incidents, one involving a mental health diversion.

Suspected Armed Person
On January 23 at 7:51 p.m. near 430 Ridge Road, a man was yelling and threatening to shoot someone. Police arrested him after he refused to comply with verbal commands. No weapon was found on him. Charges were filed.

Assault
On January 23 at 12:57 p.m. near 6982 Hanover Parkway, two men were arguing. One grabbed a knife and threatened to stab the other. He fled before the police arrived.

Fights
On January 21 at 4:19 p.m. near 9108 Springhill Lane, a large group of juveniles were fighting, and ran in multiple directions as officers approached. One who was seen assaulting another was captured.

On January 22 at 5:50 p.m. near 6002 Greenbelt Road, five people were fighting in a restaurant bathroom. When police arrived they had fled, except one person who was uncooperative.

On January 24 at 4:20 p.m. near 6460 Capitol Drive, officers responded to a large fight, with suspects and victims visibly intoxicated. All were provided with warrant advisements. One person was injured.

Break-in
On January 26 at 12:54 a.m. near 7817 Mandan Road, a resident claimed someone had broken in. No forced entry was observed, and nothing was reported stolen or damaged.

Fraud
On January 22 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man used a stolen credit card to purchase merchandise; police found and arrested him. Near 7248 Mandan Road, money was withdrawn from an account without authorization.

Warrant Arrest/Indecent Exposure

On January 23 at 11:01 p.m. near 7501 Greenbelt Road, a man exposed himself. He was arrested and charged with indecent exposure; he also had an open warrant through the D.C. U.S. Marshals.

Theft and Shoplifting
On January 21 near 9232 Edmonston Road, a bike was stolen outside a residence.

Packages were stolen January 22 from an apartment near 6510 Lake Park Drive; January 25 from a doorstep near 5921 Cher-

rywood Terrace; and January 26 near 9015 Breezewood Terrace, a female food delivery driver was filmed taking a package after delivering food to another resident.

On January 20 at 8:06 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise and left in a white Kia Forte; at 12:58 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items and fled on foot. Officers found and arrested the man, and all items were returned.

On January 21 at 3:39 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, three shoplifters fled before police arrived; at 4:47 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, three juvenile shoplifters were spotted, ran, and were arrested and taken to the station.

On January 22 at 3:49 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a female shoplifter was taken into custody and charged; all items were recovered.

On January 23 at 11:19 a.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise; at 6:44 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, three people placed items into a shopping cart and tried to leave without paying. When the manager blocked the cart from leaving, one of them began threatening and throwing items at him; they fled in a white Nissan.

On January 23 at 10:36 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, two men stole merchandise.

On January 24 at 10:30 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a man walked out of a store without paying for his items; officers located him, and all the items were recovered.

On January 25 at 12:13 p.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a suspect stole items and fled; at 6:47 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a suspect fled with bags of candy.

On January 26 at 11:41 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, two men stole merchandise; at 1:31 p.m. near 7429 Greenbelt Road, a man grabbed clothes and fled.

Vandalism
On January 22 at 9:20 p.m. near 7710 Hanover Parkway, someone broke a kitchen window.

Vehicle Crimes
Stolen Vehicles
Three vehicles were stolen: on January 20 near 227 Lakeside Drive, a gray 2016 Mazda MZ3 (Va. TSS7526); on January 21

near 48 Crescent Road, a black 2012 Hyundai Genesis left running to warm up (Md. 4EZ1366); and on January 22 near 6113 Breezewood Court, a 2013 Infiniti G37 (Md. 3GH8339).

Located Stolen Vehicle
On January 21 near 6109 Breezewood Court, police found a 2018 Infiniti Q50 with damage to the sunroof. It was reported stolen through D.C. police, and was impounded.

Attempted Theft of Auto
On January 21 at 1:42 a.m. near 9003 Breezewood Terrace, a witness saw a man wearing all black break into a vehicle and police arrested him. The vehicle had a broken window and ignition damage.

On January 24 near 6019 Springhill Drive, a 2019 Dodge Charger had a broken window and ignition damage.

Theft from Auto
On January 20 near 6500 Capitol Drive, five vehicle tags were reported missing from the Honda dealership.

On January 22 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, the wheels were taken from a 2018 Honda Accord; near 221 Lakeside Drive, a window on a 2013 Lincoln MKS was broken and a registered firearm was missing from the vehicle. The firearm was recovered by Prince George's County Police from a juvenile whom they arrested.

On January 24 near 6015 Springhill Drive, a 2005 Honda Pilot was broken into and items were stolen.

On January 25 near 9158 Springhill Court, a 2012 Toyota (possibly unlocked) had money stolen.

On January 26 near 6027 Springhill Drive, a vehicle had a window broken and tools stolen; near 5995 Springhill Drive, a vehicle was broken into and items were stolen.

Vandalism to Auto
On January 26 near 6204 Springhill Drive, a Honda had the rear windshield shattered.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

the installation of underwater lights in the pool.

Weekend swim lessons and exercise classes will be held in the outdoor pool during the construction. GAFC is working out a plan with the Greenbelt Swim Team to accommodate their needs as much as possible. Summer camp swim lessons will not be offered.

Fewer lifeguards will be needed because of the construction, so not as many will be hired. But efforts will be made to retain all the lifeguards currently working.

Passholders may pause their membership during the work or receive a refund. Varda said the amount of revenue projected to be lost during the construction is estimated to be \$40,000 to \$50,000. The Recreation Department makes about 70 percent of its revenue between April and September, said Varda.

The pool deck repairs will be funded by Project Open Space. Councilmember Rodney Roberts questioned the use of these funds. Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that these funds had been used for recreational purposes by many other municipalities in Maryland. Salmerón noted that Project Open Space funds are no longer allocated to municipalities but must be applied for, out of

a competitive fund. Using these outside Project Open Space funds allows American Rescue Plan Act money, which had originally been designated for the pool deck, to be used for other purposes.

A town hall to review the impacts of the pool deck repairs is to be held Thursday, January 30 at 7 p.m.

Standing Rules
Council is undertaking a review of its standing rules. Issues discussed included the behavioral expectations of councilmembers, limiting the length of council meetings and limiting public comments. Standing rules from other municipalities were considered and a copy of Berwyn Heights' standing rules was included in the worksession packet. A subgroup of councilmembers agreed to summarize councilmember feedback and bring back suggested revisions to another council meeting.

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(See Love Note examples in this issue)

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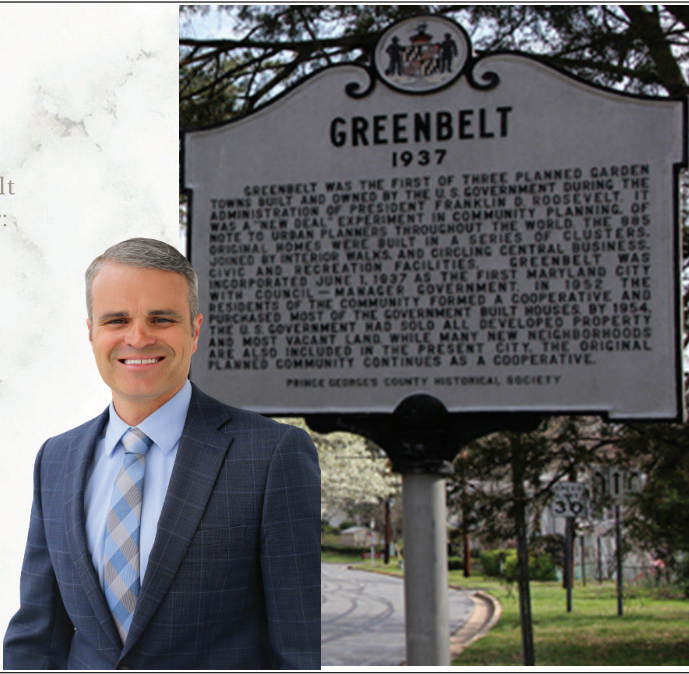
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#1 in Sales for Greenbelt from 2017-2023



CHELSEA WOOD continued from page 8

years. On January 27 he told the News Review that he is hosting friends and family again, which was not possible for Thanksgiving and Christmas. He said that so far, Metropolis is “a change for the better” and they moved quickly to address the heating issue once becoming responsible. Jocelyn Cox said the return of heat for her, her husband and their 3-year-old and 6-month-old has meant “I’m able to sleep more soundly because we aren’t running space heaters 24/7 with two small children in the house.”

She said they no longer wake up to icicles inside their windows, and can now move between rooms without first heating them, where previously they stayed in one bedroom until dinner time, when they warmed the kitchen before cooking dinner. And they are now able to leave home, after weeks of staying home when temperatures were below freezing because it wasn’t safe to leave with space heaters on, and leaving with them off meant returning to interior temperatures in the 40s.

SCHOOL continued from page 1

disabilities or those who are economically disadvantaged. Greenbelt Elementary was given the ATSI designation due to poor performance among students with disabilities, Shanna Edmond, director of Title 1 Office of Student Support and Federal Programs, said in an email. To exit the ATSI designation, however, not only does this group need to improve, but other student groups need to have not fallen below the threshold since the school was designated.

The Maryland State Report Card measures of academic progress and achievement at Greenbelt Elementary have seen a marked decline in recent years. The school earned four out of five stars for 2018, 2019 and 2022 (the Maryland State Report Card was not published during 2020 or 2021). In 2023 and 2024, Greenbelt Elementary earned just three stars. The 2024 Report Card noted that only 8.1 percent of Black and African American students were proficient in math, while only 9.5 percent of Hispanic and Latino students were proficient in math. That number was less than 5 percent for students with disabilities at the school. The February 27 meeting will be a chance for parents to ask questions and to learn about the specific ways in which slipping school performance will be addressed.

“Our school improvement team is committed to exiting this designation by the 2026-2027 school year and we invite you as partners in your student’s education to join us,” Nelson wrote. “During this time of designation and improvement initiatives, we will focus on improving instruction, offering additional learning opportunities such as tutoring and after-school programs, and providing opportunities for parent and family input and involvement. In addition, we will closely monitor student progress and provide expanded counseling and support services to ensure success.”

More information about Greenbelt Elementary’s performance can be found at reportcard.msde.maryland.gov.

Brooke Kenny’s two children attend Greenbelt Elementary School. She is the immediate past president of the Greenbelt Elementary Parent Teacher Association.

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BEP continued from page 1

presented no significant harm to the various resources considered. A final supplemental environmental assessment for traffic and utilities mitigation was approved in September 2024. Preparation of the site for construction had begun. Buildings on the site – four multistory laboratories and various other small

buildings that had been used for poultry research until around 2012 – were demolished in the fall of 2023 and large trees on the property were cleared early in 2024. The newsletter reports that USACE will continue to work with BEP on a “path forward as reevaluations for this project are underway.”

MEMORIAM continued from page 4

man that I ever knew.” Lifting tasks for which Paul sought the help of a carrier or another person were single-handedly accomplished by Billy.

Billy was never out of work as his expertise kept the phone ringing with many requests for his skills. When he and Marie moved to Florida in retirement, Billy was denied retirement because the folks in his community were regularly asking for his help with a project or repair. He never turned them down. Marie said it became her job to sit by the phone and tell callers, “No.”

Billy enjoyed going to the Greenbelt American Legion for drinks and Marie accompanied him often. He connected with others there and joined a group of 10 guys who established The Bear Pin Rod and Gun Club in Western Maryland for hunting, fishing and socializing. One of the other nine members was Kirk McCauley, Joe Mack’s brother-in-law. Another member, Paul Face-mire, related that Billy converted

what was an old cabin into a multi-bed lodge (of course). Billy later added a “man cave” to his Florida abode to enjoy watching sports with friends.

Billy’s first cousin, Lewis Merritt, related that Billy never attended high school. He learned the carpenter trade instead but then rose beyond those skills. “He had the ability to imagine structures and additions” and could perform tasks needed to realize the vision, according to Lewis. His work was highly respected and referrals were too numerous to answer them all.

Both Billy and Joe were humble, accomplished tradesmen who treated others with respect and looked out for their friends. In the world of early Greenbelt and its kids, they were admired and respected. Though they shared in the good times of our youth and beyond, they demonstrated the rewards of hard work and jobs well done. I am humbled and honored to have known them both, even if only on the surface.



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A Review

The Seagull Plays Through Saturday at the Arts Center

by Leo Casalini

To have meaning in one’s life, one’s life must be original. Or so thinks Constantine (Marianne Virnelson), the tortured, angsty artist who is the lead in the Rude Mechanicals’ new adaptation of Anton Chekhov’s play, *The Seagull*. Originally written in 1895 and set in the Russian city of Moscow, the play was written about the breakthrough of new-age theater. The new and unrenowned theater seeks to disrupt the true and tried and give itself a seat at a table, which doesn’t seem to have, or want to make, any space for it. Director Melissa Schick sought to bring about a more modern approach to the piece, replacing dialogue with music to convey some key messages and setting the play in the late 1970s, in a New York City going through a similar dilemma with the Punk Rock movement.

Throughout the play we see Constantine try to shirk the status quo and create art devoid of the age-old themes that seem to dominate the music industry, namely love and heartbreak. But despite her best efforts, it is love she ultimately feels most compelled to write about and heartbreak that does not seem to want to leave the characters inhabiting the quaint little lakeside house alone. True to its roots as a tragic-comedy, *The Seagull* contains love and calamity in equal measure, touching on both ends of the extreme, and really starts to shine as its characters visit each in turn.

The thing that perhaps stood out the most in the Rude’s adaptation of *The Seagull* was the addition of a live band woven into the scenery of the set. Throughout the play the actors are wont to grab a microphone and break into song in the middle of a scene, lamenting or confessing to their lover or friend, all the while accompanied by the musicians just behind them.

If there is one flaw in *The Seagull*, it is that for many on-lookers the relationships between the characters, romantic and otherwise, could be difficult to keep track of as the play unfolds. Where most stories stop at a love triangle, *The Seagull* can best be described as a love hexagon. Yet, that in itself might be a subtle message to the viewers: a message that life cannot be represented by just one relationship or just one type of music; it is complicated and versatile and anything but predictable; it is punk.

The Seagull will appeal most to fans of music and deep social commentary, although it is warranted a watch by all as its story carries meaning that still very much resonates with audiences today. You can catch *The Seagull* at the Greenbelt Arts Center at



From left, Jaki Demarest as Arkadina, Marianne Virnelson as Constantine, Mikki Barry as Sorin, and Kashaf Jabbar as Medvedienko

- Photos by Rachel Zirkin Duda



Eric Honour on guitar, Steven Howell Wilson as Trigorin, Diana Dzikiewicz on drums and keys, Aisling Mockler as Nina and Leah DeLano on bass

8 p.m. on January 29 and 31 and February 1. There are depictions of drug use and suicide, as well as the use of a prop gun and sound effects present in the play. Viewer discretion is advised.

Firefighter Training



Berwyn Heights firefighters conduct training for water rescues on Greenbelt Lake on Sunday, January 26.

- Photos by Corita Waters



Greenbelt Eats

Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant Opens in Roosevelt Center

by Lois Rosado



PHOTO COURTESY LOIS ROSADO

From left, Katrina Boverman, Sunrise Caribbean owner Alisa Plaza, Raz, Lois Rosado and Lore Rosenthal

Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant held a soft opening on Saturday, January 25 with a huge buffet, great music and warm smiles. Owner Alisa Plaza stated that the journey took longer than it should have. This family-owned restaurant offers a most delicious vegan menu. However, to ensure that Trinidadians and other Caribbean folks don’t miss out on their roti, some meat dishes are available. Plaza’s husband Raz has been vegan for over 40 years, which is why they originally began serving vegan dishes. The hours of operation will be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Plaza stated an All You Can Eat Sunday Brunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be available, and she is very excited about that. Sunrise also caters special events.

Challenges Encountered

As Plaza explained the challenges, she also assumed responsibility for some of them. For example, she did a full buyout from the Beijing Restaurant’s owners because they assured her that the tags on the kitchen hood system and other appliances were up to date. The tags proved to be out of date, said Plaza, and she blames herself for not using her usual realtor. Plaza hopes she has created a comfortable eating and leisure environment for patrons.

Sunrise History Here

When asked how she first

came to Greenbelt, Plaza said that a friend saw the flyer for the Green Man Festival seeking food vendors for the event. She applied and was accepted and fell in love with the city and its people. Plaza said that Sunrise was the first vegan food vendor for the Green Man Festival, and even though that first time they were shut down for not having a county food permit, many Greenbelters went to the Washington Sunrise restaurant and bought their food. They have been doing the Festival ever since, along with the Farmers Market, and opening this restaurant is a dream come true. Kam McQueen, a former Greenbelt resident, vegan and animal rights activist, had been a major and longtime supporter of Sunrise Restaurant and encouraged her to open a place in Greenbelt.

Soft Opening

The soft opening was filled with Greenbelters who are familiar with Sunrise food offerings. My husband had the curried goat with sweet plantains and rice and red beans. He found it very tasty. I sampled the vegan menu and will continue to order vegan dishes. There was a comfortable and inviting environment at the restaurant, and there were many friendly reunions and great conversations taking place.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

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See p. 9 to get yours!